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April 27, 2004

**ROCKFORD RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 102 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON
FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING A FIREARM**

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; LARRY FORD, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF); PAUL A. LOGLI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; and STEVEN PUGH, Rockford Police Chief, today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced **EDWARD D. HALEY**, 25 (DOB: 4/19/78), formerly of 2808 Canterbury Lane, Rockford, Illinois, to 102 months in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of a firearm. He also was sentenced to three years of supervised release following his release from prison and to pay a \$200 fine.

At the time of his guilty plea on February 20, 2004, Haley admitted that on July 1, 2002, at approximately 1:33 a.m., he was a passenger in a vehicle attempting to evade Rockford Police Officers by weaving in and out of traffic, traveling at a high rate of speed, and making several turns at quick intervals. At one point the vehicle drove into oncoming traffic. The vehicle came to a rolling stop when Haley jumped out of the passenger side and the vehicle sped away. Haley admitted that as he turned to run from the vehicle, he held a Smith & Wesson .40 caliber semi automatic pistol in his hand. Haley then tripped over the curb, dropped the gun and was attempting to flee, when a police officer pursued him. Haley was then arrested. Haley, who was previously convicted of a felony, admitted he knowingly possessed the gun which had traveled across state lines prior to his possession of it.

First charged by the Winnebago County States Attorney's Office under state law, Haley was transferred to federal court where he was charged under tough federal firearms laws as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods program. Project Safe Neighborhoods is an intensive, cooperative effort between local, state, and federal law enforcement to attack gun crimes. The cornerstone of the program is that every state defendant with a gun will be reviewed for possible federal prosecution in order to obtain the harshest penalties for the worst offenders. Additional information about Project Safe Neighborhoods may be found at www.psn.gov.

The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the ATF and the Rockford Police Department. It was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Monica V. Mallory.

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